

October 24, 2011

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Monday, October 24, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. at the Water District office, 1016 St. Mary Street, Thibodaux, LA.

Present were: Hugh Caffery, Chairman	Larry Dugas
Gene Harrell, Vice-Chairman	Jake Giardina
Robert Thibodaux, Secretary/Treasurer	Ron Animashaun
Dr. Darby Chiasson	Greg Nolan

Absent: None

Also present were: Robert Routon, OCPR; Michelle Robert and Alice Abney, CH2MHill
Joel Tillery, CH2MHill; Alma Robichaux, BTNEP; Nick Porto
Stevie Smith, All South Consulting Engineers; Donald Arceneaux
Stacy Sagona; Jerry Waguespack; Robert Mire; Archie Chaisson, Jr., Director
Jana Langley, Administrative Coordinator

The Board presented Mr. Donald Arceneaux with a plaque for his service to the District Board as commissioner from 2005 – 2011. Chairman Hugh Caffery stated to Mr. Arceneaux that it is all our pleasure to have worked together with you, and to the betterment of the Bayou Lafourche community and your efforts. Chairman Caffery stated it is heartfelt thanks that we, on behalf of all of the community, present this plaque to you. Mr. Arceneaux commented that he enjoyed his six years and that he did his best, we set some goals, and we did part of it. Mr. Arceneaux stated that six years ago he told Mr. Hebert, a man he greatly admires, and told Archie that when the Board became a political Board that it was time for him to go.

Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell read a resolution that was adopted thanking Mr. Arceneaux for his six years of dedicated service as the Assumption Parish Commissioner. The resolution was framed and presented to him.

Moved by Commissioner Ron Animashaun, seconded by Commissioner Larry Dugas and unanimously approved to amend the agenda by two-thirds vote to move Item 14(a)- Old Business-Update on Bayou Lafourche Summit, up next for discussion.

Mr. Stevie Smith, All South Consulting Engineers, gave an update on the Bayou Lafourche Summit. He advised that over two hundred people attended the summit over a week. There were about two hundred different issues, and two hundred solutions that were proposed. Mr. Smith distributed to the Board information that was generated at the summit. The expanded final report will be presented at the November meeting. Mr. Smith advised that he will be attending several meetings throughout the parishes to give an overview of the outcome of the summit.

Chairman Hugh Caffery stated that we have an opportunity to get in a Capital Outlay application which has a November 1st deadline. Mr. Stevie Smith advised that we can make a request to continue the dredge project moving down the bayou. The application will be considered as part of the Capital

Outlay bill in the legislative session next spring. If it meets certain criteria, it can be included in the Capital Outlay bill in 2012. If it is included in the bill at the end of the session, and if the bond commission approves money for it, then about this time next year is when the actual money would be available. Mr. Smith advised that Capital Outlay requires a 25% match. The 25% match is not required to be put up until the State funds your project.

Chairman Caffery asked what happens if we get approved for funds but can't come up with the 25% match. Mr. Smith answered that we would need to negotiate on how to do just part of the project that we can afford to do. The project would be scaled to the resources available.

Ms. Michelle Robert, CH2MHill, advised that they estimated working with the State to complete the 1000cfs channel, which includes completing the rest of the design of the channel and dredging it out, would cost \$60 million. This would bring it within five miles of the Audubon Street Bridge. Ms. Robert stated that it is really important that they get new survey information for the bottom of the channel because of the changes.

Ms. Robert recommended turning the pumps on in stages to check the water levels to see what the model shows. The weather needs to be monitored for rain also. Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell agreed that we need to find out what the water levels would be by turning on the pumps in stages.

Ms. Robert showed graph lines of the water levels before and after the dredging. The graph also shows the water levels at the 1000cfs. The graph shows areas of where the most sediment is. A lengthy discussion was held regarding the water level lines on the graph.

Ms. Robert advised that we need to put more gauges north of Thibodaux to monitor the water levels. The information from the staff gauges would be used to calibrate the model.

Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell asked who would pay for the sonar survey, and Mr. Routon answered that this currently not part of the scope. It could be something that could be covered and then reimbursed. Ms. Robert stated that she would get an estimate of the survey cost.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell and unanimously approved to request Stevie Smith with All South Consulting Engineers to draft and submit a Capital Outlay application requesting \$20 million to dredge Bayou Lafourche.

Mr. Routon asked if the limiting factor in Donaldsonville is the Hwy. 308 underpass at the Railroad Bridge or is it other drainage areas. Mr. Chaisson answered that it is the Hwy. 308 underpass, also at St. Patrick St., and Claiborne St. box culvert that it starts backing up into. Anything above 9 ft. would flood the Hwy. 308 underpass, and start affecting their drainage. Mr. Routon stated that since that is a hurricane evacuation route, there is potential that a backup pump system, or something could be installed possibly to alleviate that constriction or weakness.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina and unanimously approved to authorize Mr. Chaisson to install five staff gauges north of Thibodaux to Donaldsonville.

Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell asked for an update on the dredge project. Ms. Robert advised that the dredge project is complete, and the contractor has demobilized off of the site. Vice-Chairman Harrell asked the status of the Aucoin property. Mr. Routon stated that all work has been completed regarding the Aucoin property as far as what the State is going to do. There are discussions going on between the Aucoin's attorneys and the State's attorneys.

Vice-Chairman Harrell asked about the tree planting. Ms. Robert advised that there is money set aside for the tree planting. Vice-Chairman Harrell stated that the State was supposed to start contacting people who want trees and let them know what their options were going to be because we don't have the personnel to do that. Commissioner Giardina stated that the trees need to be planted in December, January, and February because that is when the tree is dormant. Chairman Caffery requested that Mr. Routon check with Mr. Paddock regarding the status of the tree planting project.

Commissioner Jake Giardina asked about the original idea of planting trees along the low water mark to identify boundaries so that people coming on this Board after us doesn't have to worry about that. Ms. Robert stated that trees could be planted along the low water mark.

Vice-Chairman Harrell asked the status of Brown property. Chairman Caffery stated that Mr. Paddock tried to meet with them several times, and Chairman Caffery advised that his memory is that he thinks there is nothing we could do in this project. We are going to have to wait for the CIAP funding.

Vice-Chairman Harrell asked about the operations manual, and Ms. Robert answered now that they have all of the information they are currently putting together the as built survey, and the draft of the operations manual will be presented to the Board for feedback.

Chairman Caffery stated that we received a letter from an attorney for Café Lafourche, and Mr. Routon advised that they are working on a response. Chairman Caffery advised that the District will respond to the attorney letter.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Ron Amimashaun and unanimously approved to amend the agenda by two-thirds vote to move Item 15(a)-New Business-CDBG grant update by Joel Tillery up next for discussion.

Mr. Joel Tillery, CH2MHill project manager, gave an update on the rehab project as follows:

- Evaluating alternatives to figure out which would be the best way to spend the money.
- Project Objectives- Replacement of two pumps; Installation of adjustable speed drives; Installation of standby generator.
- Increase capacity of pump station to a reasonable maximum given current limitations of facility.
- Alternative 1: 400 to 420 cfs; Alternative 2: 440 to 480 cfs
- Alternative Evaluation: Cost – budget of \$2.7M for engineering and construction; Hydraulic capacity of pump station; Hydraulic capacity of existing channel
- Schedule Status: Notice to Proceed 09/06/11; Kickoff meeting 09/28/11; Site visits 10/11/11
- Channel hydraulics analysis-ongoing; Pump station hydraulics-ongoing; Cost estimates/ vendor coordination-ongoing; Draft report issued – 12/01/11

- Estimated Design, Permitting, and Construction Schedule: Design start 01/12
Design Finish-05/12; Permitting TBD; Bidding start-06/12; Construction start-08/12

Commissioner Jake Giardina asked how much the CDBG grant money is for the pump station rehab, and Mr. Chaisson answered \$2.9 million, which includes contingency.

Chairman Caffery excused himself from the meeting, and Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell continued with the meeting.

Vice-Chairman Harrell asked for a motion to open the public hearing on the 2012 Budget. Moved by Commissioner Robert Thibodaux, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina and unanimously approved to open the public hearing on the 2012 Operational Budget.

Mr. Chaisson reviewed all line items for the 2012 Operational Budget. Vice-Chairman Harrell asked for any comments on the budget, and there were none.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Larry Dugas and unanimously approved to close the public hearing on the budget.

Moved by Commissioner Robert Thibodaux, seconded by Commissioner Larry Dugas and unanimously approved to adopt the 2012 Operational Budget.

Moved by Commissioner Ron Animashaun, seconded by Jake Giardina to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes of the monthly meeting of September 19, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Ron Animashaun, seconded by Jake Giardina to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes of the special meeting of October 7, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Ron Animashaun to approve the accounts payable for September. Motion carried unanimously.

BAYOU OPERATIONS

Crews: The harvesters are working in the area from Thibodaux weir to Lafourche Sugars. We pulled the machines last week to change out the blades, and performed light maintenance on them. Second crew is working with the tug clearing hydrilla south of Thibodaux. The crew also ran the Company Canal structure and performed maintenance on the West Theriot canal gates during the month.

EQUIPMENT STATUS: Trucks: all operational. No. 7 had repairs to the fuel filter canister. Boats: all operational; Harvesters: both operational.

BAYOU CREW PERSONNEL STRENGTH: Present: 5

PUMP STATON: RIVER STAGE: Beginning September : 7.20; Ending Month: 5.42; Current Stage: 4.98

PUMP OPERATION: No. Days Siphon: 0 ; No. Days Pumping: Mixed water for Peoples Water - 6 days for storm. Normal; Pumping operations for 24days.

STATION MAINTENANCE: Automatic Power out for light repairs on Dolphin Piles on river. General maintenance and yard work. We are waiting on parts to arrive for restroom remodel.

Ms. Jana Langley asked for a motion to adopt a resolution from Whitney Bank to return with the signature form for the checking account.

Moved by Commissioner Ron Animashaun, seconded by Commissioner Greg Nolan and unanimously approved to adopt the resolution from Whitney Bank authorizing eight Board members, Archie P. Chaisson Jr., and Jana Langley as signers on the Whitney Bank Business Edge checking account. The motion includes removing Donald Arceneaux as a signer on the checking account.

Mr. Chaisson stated that at the summit meeting one of the suggestions was to get an 800 number for people to call in to communicate better with us. We are able to get 1-855-ON MY BAYOU. The charge is \$10.00 per month plus toll charges. Mr. Chaisson stated that we will activate the number.

Mr. Chaisson advised that he will have an e-mail address activated for the summit information. The e-mail address is blfwdinfo@bellsouth.net.

Moved by Commissioner Larry Dugas, seconded by Commissioner Ron Animashaun and unanimously approved to change the November and December meetings due to the holidays. The meeting dates will be changed to Monday, November 14th and Monday, December 12th.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Robert Thibodaux and unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Hugh F. Caffery, Chairman

Robert Thibodaux, Secretary/Treasurer